

## The Tip O' Neill Diaspora Award Nomination Form 2017



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

### **Introduction:**

Tip O'Neill was a liberal Democrat and an influential member of the US House of Representatives. Throughout his long and distinguished career, he spoke to and for both the Irish community and all vulnerable residents in the United States. He firmly believed in the responsibility and capacity of government to bring about social change and its duty to resolve many social problems. In 1977, he denounced violence in Northern Ireland and used his influential position to become one of the most important US advocates, playing a key role for peace in Northern Ireland. His vision and his determination to make Ireland a better place were crucial in the negotiations that led to the Anglo Irish Agreement in 1985 and the establishment of the International Fund for Ireland.

The Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award was initiated in 2012 as a means of commemorating the centenary of the birth of the late Tip O'Neill an illustrious grandson of Donegal emigrants and an eminent member of the Irish Diaspora. This award has gained momentum since the inaugural ceremony and has become a highlight of the Donegal County Council's calendar and Diaspora Initiative.

The Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award is presented on an annual basis at a ceremony in Donegal to a member of the broad Irish Diaspora in recognition of achievements in their chosen field and can be given to an individual who has:

- Achieved eminence in their chosen careers, especially in business, commerce, industry and philanthropy.
- Made an outstanding contribution towards fostering a better understanding aboard of Donegal/Ireland and its civilization.
- Extended their support to Donegal/Ireland's causes and concerns.
- Made Donegal/Ireland proud by brilliant performance in their field of merit.
- Made a major contribution to Donegal/Ireland's success on the world stage.
- Given a meaningful individual contribution at community level.

**The closing date for receipt of completed nomination forms is the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.**

**Nominator:**

Name: \_Dr. Francis Talty\_\_\_\_\_

Address: University of Massachusetts Lowell, 820 Broadway, Lowell, MA USA

01852\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_francis\_talty@uml.edu\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee:**

Name:

Martin(Marty)Meehan\_\_\_\_\_

Address: 65 East India Row, Apt. 23C, Boston, MA USA 02110 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: [MMeehan@umassp.edu](mailto:MMeehan@umassp.edu)\_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: Presidents' Office, University of Massachusetts, 1 Beacon Street, Boston, MA  
USA \_\_\_\_\_

WorkEmail:[MMeehan@umassp.edu](mailto:MMeehan@umassp.edu)\_\_\_\_\_

Work Website: \_\_\_\_\_<https://www.umassp.edu/>  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please outline the reasons that this person should be considered for the Tip O' Neill  
Diaspora Award (TONDA)**

(Provide a comprehensive statement as to why you believe this person should be  
considered for the TONDA ~ minimum 80 words – maximum 150 words)

Prior to being appointed Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2007, and President of the University of Massachusetts in 2015, Marty Meehan served in the United States Congress from 1993 until 2007. During his congressional career, Meehan was deeply involved with the Northern Ireland peace process. In 2000, he accompanied President Clinton and cabinet members on a mission to bolster prospects for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. As a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, he cosponsored resolutions calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict and the commencement of all-party talks leading toward self-rule for the North. Meehan fought to break down trade barriers and stimulate strong business ties between the U.S. and Northern Ireland. Meehan was also a strong supporter of the MacBride Principles, a set of business guidelines for fair employment in Northern Ireland, to ensure that United States dollars do not subsidize anti-Catholic discrimination in Northern Ireland.

**Please outline the nominee's association with and/or links to Donegal**

(Provide details about your nominee, family links, business, community links or association with Donegal).

During his time at UMass Lowell, Meehan established the Center for Irish Partnerships in 2009. The Center fosters collaborations and partnerships with educational institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland across an interdisciplinary spectrum including the social sciences, the natural sciences and engineering, the humanities and health and education fields. These international partnerships embrace faculty exchange and joint research ventures and to work with Irish partners to create a dynamic model for Cross-Atlantic collaboration that will promote and advance University of Massachusetts Lowell's goals to enhance the student experience by providing a global perspective to teaching and research, while contributing to Irish interests through exchange and service. Letterkenny Institute of Technology was an early partner of the Center for Irish Partnerships, and it is a partnership that has continued to thrive. In 2016, Meehan was invited to speak at the fifth annual Donegal-Irish Diaspora Conference, participating on a panel discussing the impact of the Irish Proclamation and what the signers envisioned for the future of Ireland.

**Please outline any actions which your nominee may have already engaged in, in support of Donegal, either at home or overseas.**

Letterkenny Institute of Technology was an early partner of the Center for Irish Partnerships, and it is a partnership that has continued to thrive. In 2016, Meehan was invited to speak at the fifth annual Donegal-Irish Diaspora Conference, participating on a panel discussing the impact of the Irish Proclamation and what the signers envisioned for the future of Ireland.

Meehan's grandmother was a first cousin of Thomas Ashe and emigrated to Massachusetts from County Kerry in the early twentieth century. Recognitions received by Meehan include; The Association of College Unions International (ACUI) 2014 President of the Year Award, the Chief Executive Leadership Award from Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in 2012, and being named to the Top 100 Irish-Americans List for [Irish America Magazine](#) in 2003.

**Have you discussed this nomination with the nominee?**

YES ☐ **No** NO ☐

**Are you willing to have your details added to the Donegal Diaspora database for future communication?**

YES ☐ **Yes** NO ☐

**Please return completed nomination forms either by post or by email to me at:**

Joanne Kilmartin,  
Diaspora Project,  
Local Enterprise Office,  
The Enterprise Fund Business Centre,  
Ballyraine,  
Letterkenny,  
Co. Donegal,  
Ireland.

**Or**

Email: [hello@irishdiasporaaward.com](mailto:hello@irishdiasporaaward.com) on or before the closing date of **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete the Tip O' Neill nomination form.**